

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1698
1 August 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council, in resolution adopted yesterday, authorizes multinational force to use all necessary means to facilitate departure of military leadership from Haiti and return of President Aristide.
- + High Commissioner for Human Rights, in report to Secretary-General, says mass killings in Rwanda were carried out in planned and concerted manner.
- + Secretary-General says regional organizations can play important role in dispute settlement and maintenance of peace; United Nations must not hesitate to explore cooperation in political, operational and financial spheres.
- + Secretary-General appoints jurists from Togo, Guinea and Mali as members of Expert Commission on humanitarian violations in Rwanda.
- + Secretary-General suspends preparations by Tajikistan Special Envoy for upcoming talks in Islamabad until Government and opposition demonstrate commitment to political dialogue.
- + Somali militia force attacks UNOSOM II camp in Belet Weyne, killing one Zimbabwean peace-keeper.
- + Legal Counsel says number of fatalities of United Nations and associated personnel has risen steadily, but those responsible have not been brought to justice.
- + Committee on Human Rights completes fifty-first session in Geneva; expresses concern at number of States failing to report on implementation of Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- + Secretary-General asks several Member States for information regarding oil imports before imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq.

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The Security Council yesterday authorized a multinational force under unified command and control to use "all necessary means" to facilitate the departure from Haiti of the military leadership and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Council called for the restoration of the legitimate Government in Haiti, consistent with the Governors Island Agreement. Once a secure and stable environment had been established, the multinational force would be replaced by an expanded United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by adopting resolution 940 (1994). There were 12 votes in favour and two abstentions (Brazil and China).

The Council extended UNMIH's mandate for six months, increased its troop level to 6,000 and set February 1996 as the completion date for the Mission. Under its revised mandate, UNMIH would assist the democratic Government of Haiti to sustain the secure and stable environment established during the multinational phase. It would protect international personnel and key installations and help professionalize the Haitian armed forces and create a separate police force. UNMIH would also help organize free elections.

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The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, has said the killings of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Rwanda since April were carried out in a planned and concerted manner. In a report to the Secretary-General dated 25 July, Mr. Ayala Lasso said radio stations close to the former Government had reportedly broadcast programmes inciting violence and extrajudicial killings. There had also been reports of summary or arbitrary executions carried out by Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces, in acts of revenge.

Mr. Ayala Lasso said the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission for Human Rights would carry out his investigations in two phases. The first would focus on current events, emphasizing emergency situations. In the second phase, the information gathered would provide a basis for an in-depth investigation of cases, to establish individual responsibility. Contacts had already been made with potential sources and many were willing to cooperate fully with the Special Prosecutor's field staff. He emphasized that there was a danger of reprisals against victims or witnesses who might come forward, in Rwanda and in neighbouring countries.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said regional organizations could play an important role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of peace, especially through preventive diplomacy. Addressing a meeting at Headquarters on cooperation with regional organizations, he stressed that the United Nations could not deal with every situation threatening peace and security on its own. It must not hesitate to explore

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new forms of cooperation in the political, operational and financial spheres. However, any actions taken by regional organizations must be authorized and controlled by the Security Council.

The regional organizations represented at the meeting were: the Commonwealth of Independent States; the Commonwealth Secretariat; the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); the European Union; the League of Arab States; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the Organization of African Unity (OAU); the Organization of American States (OAS); and the Western European Union. Also participating were: Under-Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Marrack Goulding; Special Adviser Ismat Kittani; General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana); and Security Council President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed the three members of the Commission of Experts to investigate grave humanitarian violations, including possible acts of genocide, in Rwanda. The members are: Atsu-Koffi Amega (Togo), Member of the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples Rights, former President of the Supreme Court and former Foreign Minister; Habi Dieng (Guinea), Attorney-General; and Salifou Fomba (Mali), Professor of International Law and Member of the United Nations International Law Commission. Mr. Amega will be Chairman of the Commission.

In a letter dated 29 July to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted that he reserved the right to expand the Commission's membership as necessary.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has suspended the activities of his Special Envoy for Tajikistan regarding upcoming talks in Islamabad until the Government and opposition parties demonstrate their sincerity and commitment to political dialogue. In a report to the Security Council dated 28 July, he said the talks must be pursued in the context of the agenda agreed to in Moscow earlier this year and the course of action outlined in Tehran in May. He noted that the parties had been unable to agree on when a cease-fire agreement should come into force. The Government lacked the political will to implement necessary confidence-building measures, while the opposition had continued its armed struggle through border infiltrations and acts of terrorism.

Citing the danger of further fighting and the potential international repercussions, the Secretary-General said he would continue his efforts within the framework of preventive diplomacy. His Special Envoy would maintain the necessary contact with the Tajik parties, and with the Governments whose cooperation had been instrumental in securing the progress to date. The small group of United Nations officials in Tajikistan would continue to implement its

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mandate, taking concerted action with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other organizations in the country.

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A camp housing 168 Zimbabwean soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was attacked by some 1,000 militia members on Saturday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. One peace-keeper was killed in the incident at Belet Weyne, and equipment, weapons and personal property were looted.

The spokesman expressed concern that rumors of a withdrawal by UNOSOM II from Somalia could lead to further attacks. "The mood seems to be grab as much as you can from the United Nations before they pull out," he said. Meanwhile, there was sporadic fighting in southern Mogadishu over the weekend, but UNOSOM II peace-keepers were not involved.

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The number of fatalities of United Nations and associated personnel has been consistently rising, yet those responsible have not been held accountable for their actions, according to the Organization's Legal Counsel, Hans Corell. He made that comment to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing With the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which began its two-week session at Headquarters today.

Mr. Corell said the Committee had been entrusted with laying down the rules to enhance the safety of all persons who put their lives at risk in the interest of the international community. The successful completion of that task would significantly strengthen the United Nations role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

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The Committee on Human Rights completed its fifty-first session in Geneva on Friday, having reviewed implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Jordan, Togo, Italy, Azerbaijan, Cyprus and Slovenia. It also examined a special report from Burundi. Despite some positive developments, the Committee noted reports of summary executions, disappearances and torture in Azerbaijan and Togo, and ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces in Italy.

The Committee expressed serious concern at the number of States in default of their obligations to report on implementation of the Covenant. It identified 17 States parties whose reports were extremely overdue: Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, Syria, Gambia, Lebanon, Suriname, Kenya, Mali, Jamaica, Guyana, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Central African

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Republic, Mauritius, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Panama and Madagascar.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked a number of Member States to seek information from petroleum companies under their jurisdiction regarding the whereabouts and amounts of any Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products imported by them on or after 1 June 1990. Such information would include the description, quantity and value of the imports, with details on the disposition of the proceeds of their sale.

In a letter to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General said the request was the most effective way to obtain information on Iraqi exports before the imposition of economic sanctions on 6 August 1990. The proceeds of sales after that date were to have been transferred to an escrow account provided for by the Council. Less than \$160 million had been deposited to date, whereas some \$1 billion in Iraqi assets were subject to resolution 778 (1992). In addition, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of oil may have been exported, but not yet paid for, before the sanctions took effect.

The Secretary-General's request was made to the following countries: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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